



Criminal Justice Oversight Council

67th Montana Legislature

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MEMO

TO: Law and Justice Interim Committee
FROM: Milly Allen
DATE: September 12
RE: Criminal Justice Oversight Council Update

At its August 30, 2022 meeting, the Criminal Justice Oversight Council (CJOC) heard presentations on best correctional practices for individuals (especially for individuals with substance use disorder) and the Montana Incentive and Intervention Grid. A panel of crime victims spoke to the council about their experiences with the justice system, highlighting victim services efforts.

The council discussed the six pieces of draft legislation it requested from the Law and Justice Interim Committee. The council approved language for three draft bills: CJOC 2, CJOC 3, and CJOC 4.

- CJOC 1: Revises sentencing laws for theft and thematically-related crimes.
- CJOC 2: Addresses matters regarding recovery residences, also known as sober living homes.
- CJOC 3: Creates a separate definition for persistent felony offender under supervision.
- CJOC 4: Revises sentencing laws for disorderly conduct.
- CJOC 5: Makes theft of a motor vehicle assessed at any value a felony.
- CJOC 6: Creates diversion pilot program for first time, low risk drug offenders.

Further review of CJOC 1, CJOC 5, and CJOC 6 is set for the council's November 15, 2022 meeting. It is the intention of the council to have another meeting during the legislative session, with a date to be determined.